

78,000 book readers are in a bind with only 45 seats to cover them

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PROVO — The City Library has 45 chairs for 78,000 Provo residents to sit in while reading or studying.

There is no space to add more chairs, no space to sit and browse, no space to listen to a record or cassette, no space for study carrels.

The reference and resource area of the library serves several functions. It is the place for study, storage, filing and checkout, and it makes a great hallway to connect the two ends of the library. It is understating to say the five-foot area is congested.

The 12,000 square feet of the current library just is not enough, said Library Director Larry Hortin at Wednesday's Library Board meeting.

The Library Board wants a new library on city-owned land on Center Street. That recommendation has been made to the mayor, and he is expected to make that recommendation to the City Council on Friday.

The board feels the most economical and efficient solution to the overcrowded library is to build a new library at Fourth West and First South.

A new library would:

- Expand parking facilities.
- Give proper access to the handicapped.
- Provide faster and more efficient check out.
- Have greater seating capacity, including multipurpose room for special programs.
- Have a meeting room for use by community groups.
- Provide 300 percent more book space.
- Have 250 percent more seating



Rod Ybarra's browsing is cramped in narrow, congested aisle of the circa 1907 library.

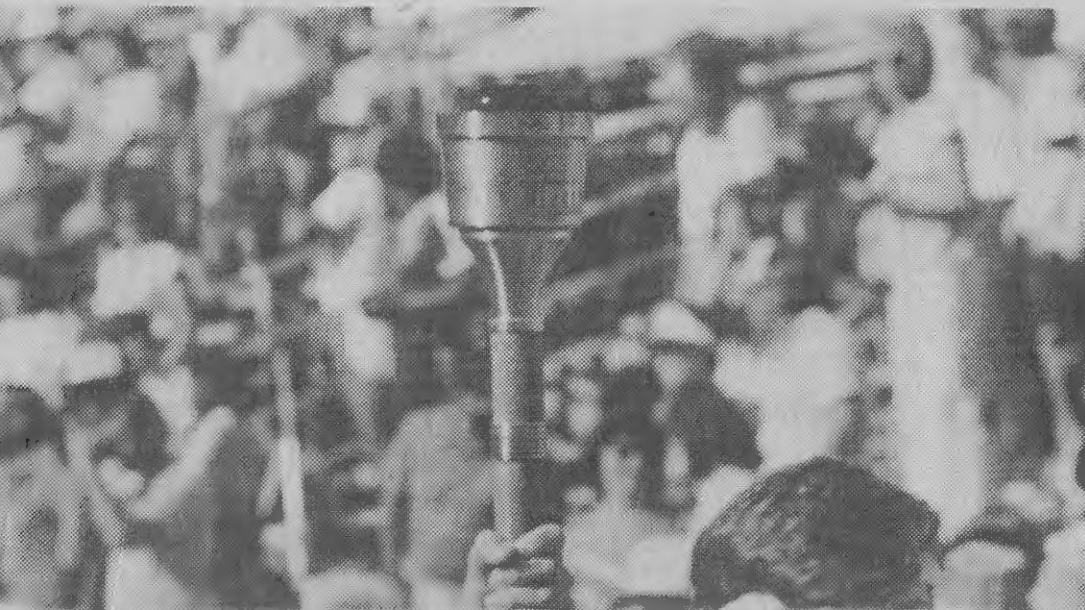
About \$375,000 could be raised from the sale of the current building, located

Developers Kent Talboe and Lee Knell have given project estimates to

more for your money, but more money is also needed," said Knell. "For the

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ns gold at track meet



Track stars pint-sized but they're big in effort

A 1,500-meter race looks slightly out of perspective when you're watching 8 and 9-year-olds run around the track. But several thousand people did just that Thursday morning at the Brigham Young University track as the 1984 Athletic Congress (or TAC) Youth Championships officially got under way.

Athletes from 35 states have gathered in Provo for the second-largest track meet to be held in the United States this year. Youth ranging in age from 8 to 18 will compete for the gold, sil-

"The plans for Academy Square may include putting a museum and cultural center with the library. The three features would be a package deal, and if the City Council wants to look at a broader picture including all three units, then Academy Square could be feasible," Gardner said. Academy Square, however, does not want to do just the library.

"The current library was built in 1907, last remodeled in 1939 and has been feeling growing pains ever since," Hortin said.

"At Academy Square you can get a quality building for an acceptable price.

The board considered several other proposals for upgrading the library, including putting it in the downtown Kress Building or the Firmage Building, remodeling and expanding the Square or constructing a new building.

After much study, the two most viable alternatives were building a new building or moving into the Academy Square.

"At Academy Square you can get

Another \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million could be raised by donations, Hortin said. The Ketchum Co., a fund-raising consultant, believes raising the money for the library is feasible, he said.

"The Friends of the Library are very supportive of the library. They handed out information and balloons to many citizens at the recent festival celebration, and they are very enthusiastic about getting a new library," said library board member Mary Rogers.

Financing will be one of the major concerns of the City Council.

— Have an exhibit area to display the work of local artists.

The cost of the new 30,000-square-foot, one-level library would be about \$2.4 million, including the value of the 1.3 acres it would sit on, said Dave Gardner, a planner for the project.

"The land, however, is worth about \$600,000 and is owned by the city, so the library would probably not have to buy it, he said.

Minus the value of the land, the estimate for the total project is \$1.4 million. Another \$300,000 would be needed to house the library with fixtures, shelves and cabinets.